STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Allowed).

2. (Previously presented) A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the R^1, R^2, and R^3 groups; and then

deoximating with a deoximating agent.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the elimination of R^1 is performed by hydrogenolysis.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with tetrabutyl ammoniumfluoride in tetrahydrofuran.

6. (New) A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the R^1, R^2, and R^3 groups;

wherein the R^1 group is eliminated by homogeneous or heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;

and wherein the R^2 and R^3 groups are eliminated by treatment with an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;

and then

deoximating with a deoximating agent.

7. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R^1 is performed by homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

8. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R^1 is performed by heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

9. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.

10. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride.

11. (New) A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the R^1, R^2, and R^3 groups;

wherein the R^1 group is eliminated by homogeneous or heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;

and wherein the R^2 and R^3 groups are eliminated by treatment with an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;

and then

deoximating by using sodium hydrogen sulfite, titanium trichloride-ammonium acetate, sodium nitrate-hydrochloric acid, or sodium hydrosulfite.

12. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R^1 is performed by homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

13. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R^1 is performed by heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

14. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.

15. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of R^2 and R^3 is performed by treatment with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride.

16. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the deoximation is performed by using sodium hydrogen sulfite.

17. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the deoximation is performed by using titanium trichloride-ammonium acetate.

18. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the deoximation is performed by using sodium nitrate-hydrochloric acid.

19. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the deoximation is performed by using sodium hydrosulfite.

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